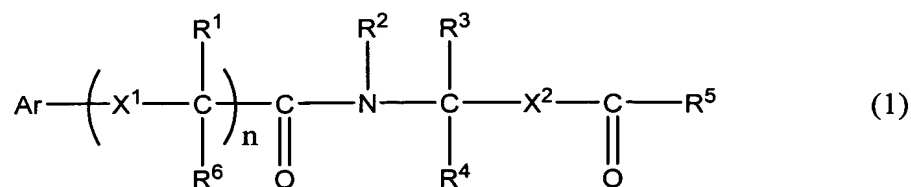


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A compound having a naphthyl group and represented by the following Formula (1) or a salt thereof



wherein

Ar represents an unsubstituted naphthyl group or a substituted naphthyl group having one or more substituents wherein said substituent is selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a hydroxyl group, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a nitro group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a carboxyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and a sulfonic acid group.

R¹, R² and R³ each represent independently a hydrogen atom, an unsubstituted straight-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a substituted straight-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents,

R⁴ represents a hydrogen atom, an unsubstituted amino acid side chain, an unsubstituted amino group, an unsubstituted amidino group, an unsubstituted guanidino group, an unsubstituted straight-chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted branched-chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted straight chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted branched-chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted straight-chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted branched-chain

guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted amidinoaryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, a substituted amino acid side chain having one or more substituents, a substituted amino group having one or more substituents, a substituted amidino group having one or more substituents, a substituted guanidino group having one or more substituents, a substituted straight-chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a substituted branched-chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a substituted straight chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a substituted branched-chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a substituted straight-chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a substituted branched-chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, or a substituted amidinoaryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms and one or more substituents,

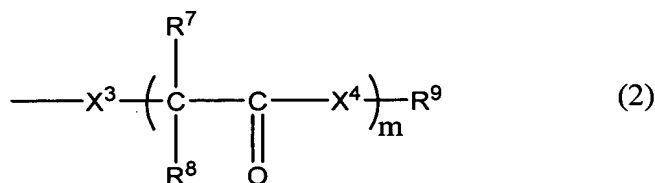
X^1 is a single bond or an unsubstituted alkylene group having 1 or 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted aminoalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a substituted alkylene group having 1 or 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, or a substituted aminoalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, wherein said substituent is selected from the group consisting of a straight-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a straight-chain oxyalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and a branched-chain oxyalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

X^2 is a single bond or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R^6 represents a hydrogen atom or -NHY, wherein Y represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxy group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms,

n is 0, and

R^5 represents a group represented by the following Formula (2),



wherein

X^3 represents -O- or -NR¹⁰-,

X^4 represents -O- or -NR¹¹-,

R^7 represents a hydrogen atom, an amino acid side chain selected from the group consisting of glutamic acid, aspartic acid, cysteic acid, homocysteic acid, ~~alanine, β -alanine,~~ 2-aminobutyric acid, valine, norvaline, leucine, norleucine, isoleucine, phenylalanine, phenylglycine, threonine, serine, homoserine, tyrosine, dopa, cysteine, methionine, glutamine, asparagine, lysine, homolysine, ornithine, arginine, and homoarginine, histidine, or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R^8 , R^{10} , and R^{11} each represent independently a hydrogen atom or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R^9 represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxy group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms, and

m represents an integer of 0 or 1.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The peptide or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24, wherein said peptide represented by Formula (1) is D-1-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂, D-2-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂, L-1-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂ or L-2-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂.

4. (Previously Presented) A melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1.

5. (Previously Presented) A melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition which comprises, as an active ingredient, a compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1 that exhibits a 50% inhibitory concentration of cAMP production (IC₅₀) of 100 nM or less.

6. (Previously Presented) The melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said composition is an inhibitor of pigmentation by ultraviolet rays.

7. (Previously Presented) The melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory compound has a molecular weight of 800 or less.

8. (Previously Presented) A whitening agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1.

9. (Previously Presented) An immunofunction controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1.

10. (Previously Presented) An appetite controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1.

11. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1.

12. (Previously Presented) A whitening agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof of the composition as claimed in Claim 5.

13. (Previously Presented) An immunofunction controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof of the composition as claimed in Claim 5.

14. (Previously Presented) An appetite controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof of the composition as claimed in Claim 5.

15. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof of the composition as claimed in Claim 5.

16. (Previously Presented) A whitening agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof of the composition as claimed in Claim 4.

17. (Previously Presented) An immunofunction controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof of the composition as claimed in Claim 4.

18. (Previously Presented) An appetite controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof of the composition as claimed in Claim 4.

19. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof of the composition as claimed in Claim 4.

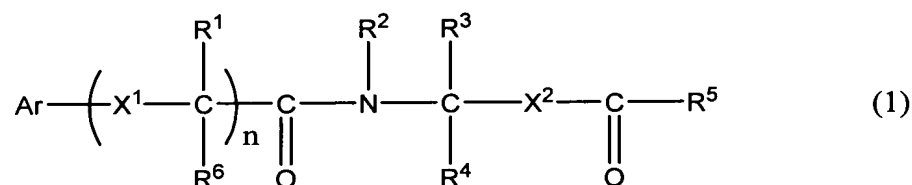
20. (Previously Presented) The peptide or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said peptide represented by Formula (1) is D-1-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂.

21. (Previously Presented) The peptide or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said peptide represented by Formula (1) is D-2-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂.

22. (Previously Presented) The peptide or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said peptide represented by Formula (1) is L-1-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂.

23. (Previously Presented) The peptide or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said peptide represented by Formula (1) is L-2-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂.

24. (Currently Amended) A peptide having a naphthyl group and represented by the following Formula (1) or a salt thereof



wherein

Ar represents a unsubstituted naphthyl group or a substituted naphthyl group having one or more substituents,

R¹, R² and R³ each represent independently a hydrogen atom, an unsubstituted straight-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a substituted straight-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents,

R^4 represents a hydrogen atom, an unsubstituted amino acid side chain, an unsubstituted amino group, an unsubstituted amidino group, an unsubstituted guanidino group, an unsubstituted straight-chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted branched-chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted straight chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted branched-chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted straight-chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted branched-chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted amidinoaryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, a substituted amino acid side chain having one or more substituents, a substituted amino group having one or more substituents, a substituted amidino group having one or more substituents, a substituted guanidino group having one or more substituents, a substituted straight-chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a substituted branched-chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a substituted straight chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a substituted branched-chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a substituted straight-chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a substituted branched-chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, or a substituted amidinoaryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms and one or more substituents,

X^1 is a single bond or an unsubstituted alkylene group having 1 or 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted aminoalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a substituted alkylene group having 1 or 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, or a substituted aminoalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, wherein said substituent is

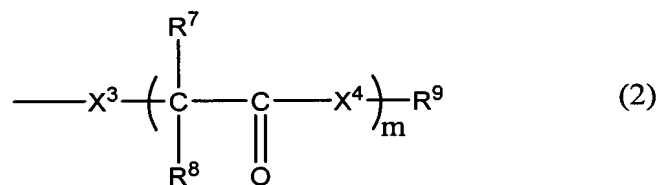
selected from the group consisting of a straight-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a straight-chain oxyalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and a branched-chain oxyalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

X^2 is a single bond or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R^6 represents a hydrogen atom or -NHY, wherein Y represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms,

n is 1, and

R^5 represents a group represented by the following Formula (2),



wherein

X^3 represents -O- or -NR¹⁰-,

X^4 represents -O- or -NR¹¹-,

R^7 represents a hydrogen atom, an amino acid side chain selected from the group consisting of glutamic acid, aspartic acid, cysteic acid, homocysteic acid, ~~alanine, β -alanine,~~ 2-aminobutyric acid, valine, norvaline, leucine, norleucine, isoleucine, phenylalanine, phenylglycine, tryptophan, threonine, serine, homoserine, dopa, cysteine, methionine, glutamine, asparagine, lysine, homolysine, ornithine, arginine, and homoarginine, histidine, or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R^8 , R^{10} , and R^{11} each represent independently a hydrogen atom or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R^9 represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxy group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms, and

m represents an integer of 0 or 1,

wherein when m is 0 said unsubstituted amino acid side chain at R^4 is an amino acid side chain selected from the group consisting of glutamic acid, aspartic acid, cysteic acid, homocysteic acid, 2-aminobutyric acid, valine, norvaline, leucine, norleucine, isoleucine, phenylalanine, phenylglycine, threonine, serine, homoserine, tyrosine, dopa, cysteine, methionine, glutamine, asparagine, lysine, homolysine, ornithine, arginine, homoarginine, and histidine.

25. (Previously Presented) The peptide or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24, wherein

Ar of Formula (1) represents a 1-naphthyl group or a 2-naphthyl group,

R^1 , R^2 and R^3 of Formula (1) each represent a hydrogen atom,

R^4 of Formula (1) represents a basic amino acid side chain having an amino group or a guanidino group,

X^1 of Formula (1) is a methylene group,

X^2 of Formula (1) is a single bond,

R^6 of Formula (1) represents -NHY, wherein Y represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxy group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms,

n of Formula (1) represents an integer of 1, and

R^5 of Formula (1) represents a group represented by Formula (2),

wherein

X^3 of Formula (2) represents -O- or -NH-,

X^4 of Formula (2) represents -O- or -NH-,

R^7 of formula (2) represents a hydrogen atom, an amino acid side chain, or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R^8 of Formula (2) represents a hydrogen atom,

R^9 of Formula (2) represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms,

and m of Formula (2) represents an integer of 0 or 1.

26. (Previously Presented) A melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24.

27. (Previously Presented) A melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition which comprises, as an active ingredient, a peptide or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24 that exhibits a 50% inhibitory concentration of cAMP production (IC₅₀) of 100 nM or less.

28. (Previously Presented) The melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 27, wherein said composition is an inhibitor of pigmentation by ultraviolet rays.

29. (Previously Presented) The melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 27, wherein said melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory compound has a molecular weight of 800 or less.

30. (Previously Presented) A whitening agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24.

31. (Previously Presented) An immunofunction controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24.

32. (Previously Presented) An appetite controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24.

33. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24.

34. (Previously Presented) A whitening agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide or salt thereof of the composition as claimed in Claim 27.

35. (Previously Presented) An immunofunction controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide or salt thereof of the composition as claimed in Claim 27.

36. (Previously Presented) An appetite controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide or salt thereof of the composition as claimed in Claim 27.

37. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide or salt thereof of the composition as claimed in Claim 27.

38. (Previously Presented) A whitening agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide or salt thereof of the composition as claimed in Claim 26.

39. (Previously Presented) An immunofunction controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide or salt thereof of the composition as claimed in Claim 26.

40. (Previously Presented) An appetite controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide or salt thereof of the composition as claimed in Claim 26.

41. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide or salt thereof of the composition as claimed in Claim 26.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claim 2 was previously canceled.

Claims 1 and 24 have been amended.

The amendment of Claims 1 and 24 is supported by the corresponding claims as originally filed and by the specification at page 10, line 15 to page 11, line 18.

The specification has also been amended at the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 15 to clarify the phrasing and to correct an error in translation.

No new matter has been introduced by the present amendment.